UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,496	12/28/2000	Cetin Seren	081862.P209	3275

7590 02/04/2005	EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2665	

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
  THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
    after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
    Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
    earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

  1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _06 October 2004_.

  2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

  3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is

       closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

  4)☒ Claim(s) _1,3,4,6-9,11,12,14-17,19,20,22-25 and 27_ is/are pending in the application.

       4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

  5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

  6)☒ Claim(s) _1,3,4,6-9,11,12,14-17,19,20,22-25 and 27_ is/are rejected.

  7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

  8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

  9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

  10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

       Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

       Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

  11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

  12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

       a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

          1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

          2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

          3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage

             application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

       * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _10/06/2004_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Responsive to amendment received on October 6, 2004, claim 2, 5, 10, 13,

18, 21, 26 and 28 are canceled and amended claim 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19 and 25-27 are

entered as requested.

Claim Objections

2.   Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: There is a

typographical error in the beginning of line 5. "toring the IMA group ID" should

be "storing the IMA group ID". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action

can be found in a prior Office action.

4.   Claim 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vallee (US Patent 6,205,142).

In regarding to claim 1, 9 and 17, Vallee teaches a method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of links to determine state changes of the links (Column 7

Line 3–8); enforcing an inverse multiplexing for asynchronous transfer mode

identification (IMA-ID) check when an insufficient links state is reached such that

a link for which a near end IMA-ID matches a far end IMA-ID is maintained and a

link for which a near end IMA-ID does not match a far end IMA-ID is disabled

(See Figure 13, Column 9 Line 20-21); relaxing the IMA-ID check when all the

links are in an error state (Column 6 Line 59–63); and re-enforcing an IMA-ID

check when at least one link of the plurality of links recovers from an error state

(Column 6 Line 59–63).

In regarding to claim 3, 11 and 19, Vallee teaches a method comprising:

restarting an existing inverse multiplexing for asynchronous transfer mode (IMA)

group (Column 6 Line 59–63), comprising learning an IMA group ID of a far end

IMA group (Column 7 Line 53–55); storing the IMA group ID in a memory such

that the IMA group ID is made persistent (Column 9 Line 27-30); using only links

matching the IMA group ID (Column 5 Line 36–38); and placing non-matching

links in an unusable state (Column 6 Line 34–51).

In regarding to claim 4, 12 and 20, Vallee teaches resynchronizing the IMA

group (Column 6 Line 59–63); and extracting the IMA group ID from a first

connected link (Column 8 Line 52–56).

In regarding to claim 6, 14 and 22, Vallee teaches screening IMA links

having an IMA group ID that are involved in unintentional IMA group restarts for

a matching stored IMA group ID (Column 5 Line 36–38).

In regarding to claim 7, 15 and 23, Vallee teaches looping back all links (Column 9 Line 54–55).

In regarding to claim 8, 16 and 24, Vallee teaches marking all links as unusable (Column 6 Line 59–63).

In regarding to claim 25, Vallee teaches a line card for use in a switch, comprising: a central processing unit (CPU); a system controller connected to the central processing unit; random access memory (RAM) connected to the system controller; and a group restarter connected to the CPU, controller, and RAM wherein the group restarter restarts inverse multiplexing for asynchronous transfer mode (IMA) group (Column 6 Line 59–63) and wherein the processor monitors a plurality of links to determine state changes of the links (Column 9 Line 5-13) and enforcing an inverse multiplexing for asynchronous transfer mode identification (IMA-ID) check when an insufficient links state is reached such that a link for which a near end IMA-ID matches a far end IMA-ID is maintained and a link for which a near end IMA-ID does not match a far end IMA-ID is disabled (See Figure 13, Column 9 Line 20-21).

In regarding to claim 27, Vallee teaches relaxing the IMA-ID check when all the links are in an error state (Column 6 Line 59–63) and re-enforcing an IMA-ID

check when at least one link of the plurality of links recovers from an error state

(Column 6 Line 59–63).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on October 6, 2004 have been fully considered

but they are not persuasive.

In response to pages 11-12, the applicant argues that Vallee does not

disclose the limitation of enforcing an IMA-ID check when an insufficient link

state is reached. Vallee teaches checking IMA-ID (Figure 13, Column 9 Line 27-

30) by comparing the transmitting IMA-ID with receiving IMA-ID to determine if

the links between the nodes are insufficient or not.

In response to pages 12-14, the applicant argues that Vallee does not

disclose the limitation of making the IMA group ID persistent. Vallee teaches

making the IMA group ID persistent (Figure 13, Column 9 Line 27-30) by

transmitting a test cell on the links in order to determine if the nodes connected via

the links are same IMA group or not. By removing bad links from the group and

maintaining good link in the group, Vallee is making the IMA group ID persistent

(Column 9 Line 20-32). The applicant, further, argues that Vallee does not

disclose the limitation of storing IMA-ID in memory. Vallee teaches checking

whether the link belong to the group (Column 9 Line 29). In order to check, the

group id should be stored in somewhere (memory, register, ...).

Therefore, the examiner contends that Vallee teaches enforcing IMA-ID

check.

Conclusion

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection

presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.

See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as
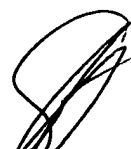
set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire

THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is

filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the

advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened

statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the

advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will

be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however,

will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of

this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Clemence Han whose telephone number is

(571) 272-3158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7 -

5.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is

703-872-9306.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR

only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system,

contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C. Han

Clemence Han
Examiner
Art Unit 2665

STEVEN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER